

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03

TAR-01 AGR-10 OIC-02 STR-04 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /124 W  
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R 281810Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8980  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 27950

DEPT PASS MARAD (R. BOURDON) AND FMC (W.J. SMITH)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: OECD SPECIAL GROUP ON UNCTAD SHIPPING QUES-  
TIONS

REF: STATE 246800

SUMMARY. OECD SPECIAL GROUP (SG) REVIEWED MAJOR DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT UNCTAD SHIPPING COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER. SG ALSO DISCUSSED STURMEY (UNCTAD SECRETARIAT) REQUEST THAT GROUP B COUNTRIES PROVIDE FUNDS FOR A PORT CONGESTION SEMINAR. WHILE NO FINAL DECISIONS WERE REACHED, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE AGENDA ITEMS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN MERCHANT SHIPPING AND PORT CONGESTION WOULD BE THE MAJOR ISSUES AT THE UNCTAD SHIPPING COMMITTEE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT AND LONG TERM TRENDS IN SHIP-  
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PING DOCUMENT TD/B/C.4/125 DISCLOSED GREEK DISSATISFAC-

TION WITH UNCTAD INVOLVEMENT IN TANKER RATES AND FRG CONCERN WITH WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES RESOLUTION ON FREIGHT RATES. HOWEVER, SG DECIDED NOT TO RAISE ISSUES AS A GROUP IN GENEVA. DISCUSSION OF DOCUMENT TD/B/C.4/142 ON PORT CONGESTION INCLUDED REPORT (BY UK GENEVA REPRESENTATIVE BROADLEY) ON AN ADDRESS BY STURMEY OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO GROUP B REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA ON OCT. 21. (SEE GENEVA 8006). STURMEY EMPHASIZED UNCTAD SECRETARIAT VIEW THAT PORT CONGESTION IS AN URGENT PROBLEM AND IMMEDIATE REMEDIES ARE REQUIRED. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS GOING TO RECOMMEND THE CONVENING OF A PORT CONGESTION SEMINAR AND HE HOPED THAT THE SHIPPING COMMITTEE WOULD APPROVE HIS RECOMMENDATION. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT UNCTAD FINANCING OF SUCH A SEMINAR WOULD TAKE TOO LONG CONSIDERING THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION. ACCORDINGLY, MR. STURMEY SUGGESTED THAT THE SEMINAR BE FINANCED BY GROUP B. SG IN DISCUSSING STURMEY PROPOSAL RESERVED POSITIONS ON FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BUT MOST DELEGATIONS GENERALLY AGREED THAT PORT CONGESTION PROBLEM WAS URGENT AND THAT GROUP B COUNTRIES COULD GAIN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE BY ASSISTING LDCS WITH THEIR PORT PROBLEMS. SG DECIDED TO HAVE CHAIRMAN (HINZ) REQUEST STURMEY TO CLARIFY HIS PROPOSAL (SEE OUR SEPTTEL AND GENEVA 8006).

2. SG DISCUSSED ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN MERCHANT SHIPPING DOCUMENT TD/B/C.4/L38 OUTLINE OF A STUDY ON PROMOTION OF SHIPPING, MANY DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PROPOSED STUDY. SOME SUGGESTED THAT STUDY COULD LEAD TO FURTHER REGULATION OF SHIPPING. US SUGGESTED THAT SMALL WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED IN GENEVA TO AMEND AND REVERSE STUDY OUTLINE RATHER THAN DISCOURAGE ANY STUDY, AS SUGGESTED BY SOME DELEGATIONS. SG POSTPONED FINAL DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED UNTIL ITEM CAN BE MORE FULLY DISCUSSED IN GENEVA. DOCUMENT TD/B/C.4/L36 ON TREATMENT OF FOREIGN MERCHANT VESSELS IN PORTS COMMENTED ON BRIEFLY BY SG. ALL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS OF INTRODUCING DRAFT PORTS CONVENTION IN IMCO. SG DECIDED TO ALLOW SOVIETS TO TAKE LEAD IN DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM IN GENEVA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TO OBSERVE GROUP OF 77 REACTIONS.

3. CONSULTATION MACHINERY. FRG EFFORT TO TABLE CRITICAL PAPER BASED ON DAF/MTC/75.39 AS GROUP B DOCUMENT AT SHIPPING COMMITTEE MEETING RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT. CONSENSUS OF SG WAS THAT PAPER WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND COUNTRIES SHOULD IF THEY WISH MAKE INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS ON UNCTAD DOCUMENT TD/B/C.4/127

ON CONSULTATION MACHINERY.

4. FINANCE FOR SHIP CONSTRUCTION. DOC. TD/B/C.4/139  
NOT AVAILABLE BUT C/WP6(75)29 WHICH IS BEFORE THE  
COUNCIL ON SHIPBUILDING FOR ADOPTION WAS DISCUSSED.  
CONCERNING THE DRAFTING OF CLAUSE 6 OF THE UNDERSTAND-  
ING ON EXPORT CREDITS FOR SHIPS, IT IS MERELY AN ANNOUN-  
CEMENT THAT THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED

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TO AMEND CLAUSE 6, AND IT WILL BE CONVEYED TO THE  
UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ALONG WITH ITS APPLICATION PROCEDURE  
AND A DRAFT OF AN ACCOMPANYING NOTE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON  
SHIPPING. MEMBERS OF WP6 AGREED TO MAKE THEMSELVES  
AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT IN GENEVA.

5. DISCUSSION OF FREIGHT RATES WAS LIMITED TO COMMENTS  
BY THE GREEK AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATIONS ON THE REPORT

BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ENTITLED "FREE-IN-AND-OUT FREIGHT RATES: POLICY ISSUES" TD/B/C.4/135. GREEK DELEGATE POINTED OUT AS EXAMPLE OF INSUFFICIENCY OF REPORT THE TREATMENT OF COMPARATIVE RATES CHARGED BY LINER CARRIERS VIS-A-VIS TRAMP CARRIERS, NOTING THAT AUTHOR HAD FAILED TO CONSIDER TO WHAT EXTENT DEMURRAGE AS CHARGED BY TRAMPS OFFSET DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN LOWER TRAMP RATES AND HIGHER LINER RATES. NORWEGIAN DELEGATE POINTED OUT SIMILAR DISCREPANCIES IN THE REPORT INCLUDING AUTHOR'S CLOSING ADMISSION OF INSUFFICIENCY OF INFOR-

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MATION UPON WHICH REPORT WAS BASED. SG ALSO CONSIDERED DOCUMENT ENTITLED "COSTS AND FREIGHT RATES IN LINER

TRADES" TD/B/C.4/128. IT WAS NOTED THAT PAPER GENERALLY FOLLOWED UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S VIEWPOINT REGARDING CONFERENCES. GERMAN DELEGATE NOTED THAT REPORT AND INFO RELIED ON IN ITS FORMULATION WERE FOR THE MOST PART OUTDATED, SUGGESTING THAT GROUP B CONSIDER IT AS SUCH AT THE MEETINGS. SG CONSIDERED DOCUMENT ENTITLED "MARITIME TRANSPORTATION OF RICE: THE ISSUES" TD/B/C.4/140. THE DOCUMENT WAS MERELY NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT BY THE DELEGATES.

6. WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LEGISLATION. SG AGREED TO DEFER FINAL DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP IN WG UNTIL GENEVA. HOWEVER, US INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN WG. SG ALSO DECIDED NOT TO HOLD PARIS MEETING PRIOR TO UNCTAD WGISL IN JANUARY 1976 ON HAGUE RULES.

7. OFFICERS FOR THE 7TH SESSION OF SHIPPING COMMITTEE. VOSS (SWEDEN) WILL BE GROUP B CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHIPPING COMMITTEE. HINZ (FRG) GROUP B, COORDINATOR FOR SESSIONAL COMMITTEE. OTHER GROUP B OFFICERS, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND FRIEND OF THE RAPPOREUR WILL BE CHOSEN IN GENEVA. NEXT GROUP B DELEGATIONS TO THE SHIPPING COMMITTEE WILL VARY FROM 3 TO 5 WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN MOST DELEGATIONS. GROUP B WILL MEET IN GENEVA AT 10.00 AM ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 10.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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